

## **CHS student chosen for NASA internship**

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A Crosby High School junior will help design a mission to Mars at the Johnson Space Center this summer.

In the week-long High School Aerospace Scholars (HAS) program, 17-year-old Brianna Morrison, and 313 other high school interns from around the state, will learn what it takes to complete a mission in space.

"Students come to the Johnson Space Center and work alongside astronauts and engineers," said HAS Program Manager Jessica Cejka. "At the end, they will have created a mission to Mars."

Each student's internship is one week long, and the program runs for seven weeks from June through July. Morrison's internship is scheduled to begin June 18, but she might reschedule it.

"I'm in band, and drum major tryouts are next week," Morrison said. "And the drum major camp is actually June 17 through 22, so if I make drum major, I might have to change my week."

Cejka said more than 1,000 students applied for the program, and after a period of cuts, only one-third were chosen for internships.

Cejka said each student had to apply online for the program and write an essay about why he/she is best fit for the program. The essays were sent to their state representatives, who make nominations. Five hundred students were elected.

Morrison was nominated by state Rep. Joe Crabb.

Cejka said the students were given 10 assignments over the school year, with one due every two weeks.

"For each one, we wrote an essay and solved math problems. And for some of them, we created designs and had to draw them," Morrison said. Cejka said the assignments helped her staff choose the best student for the position. Based on performance, the field was cut to 314 students. Those students were awarded the internships.

Once the students arrive at the space center, Cejka said they will be grouped into teams. Each team will be responsible for developing a certain part of the mission, ranging from experiments to payload.

Morrison will be a member of the mission integration team. She and other team members will decide what types of people will make the trip to Mars and will assign duties to those people.

Morrison said she does not want to travel in space as her career. She wants to become a teacher.

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